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In re Patent Application of
ROMAIN
Serial No. 09/914,172
Filed: AUGUST 24, 2001

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (Currently amended) A method for providing security to a chaining of useful operations, of a same type, performed by an electronic circuit executing an algorithm, each of the useful operations corresponding to a step of the algorithm, the method comprising:

randomly introducing at least one dummy operation of the same type in the chaining of useful operations; and

maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful operations.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive dummy operations.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful and dummy operations.

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11. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein a number of dummy operations is constant for each new execution of the algorithm.

12. (Currently amended) A method for providing security to an electronic circuit executing an algorithm, the method comprising:

executing the algorithm so that useful operations of a same type are chained together, with each useful operation corresponding to a step of the algorithm;

maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful operations; and

randomly introducing at least one dummy operation of the same type in the chaining of useful operations.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive dummy operations.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful and dummy operations.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein a number of dummy operations is constant for each new execution of the algorithm.

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17. (Previously presented) An electronic device comprising:

a processor for executing an algorithm that includes a plurality of useful operations of a same type, and a routine for providing security to a chaining of the plurality of useful operations, with each useful operation corresponding to a step of the algorithm, the routine randomly introducing at least one dummy operation of the same type in the chaining of useful operations, and the routine maintaining a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful operations.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) An electronic device according to Claim 17, wherein the routine maintains a constant time interval between execution of two successive dummy operations.

20. (Previously presented) An electronic device according to Claim 17, wherein the routine maintains a constant time interval between execution of two successive useful and dummy operations.

21. (Previously presented) An electronic device according to Claim 17, wherein a number of dummy operations is constant for each new execution of the algorithm.

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22. (Previously presented) An electronic device according to Claim 17, wherein the electronic device is configured as a chip card.

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